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PATENT APPLICATION Docket No. 7678.599.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re application of | |) |
|----------------------|---|------------------|
| | Norbert Abels, et al. | } |
| Scrial No.: | 10/774,197 |) Art Unit |
| Filed: | February 6, 2004 |) 3732) |
| Conf. No.: | 6975 |) |
| For: | SELF-LIGATING ORTHODONTIC BRACKETS INCLUDING A METAL LIGATION COVER HINGEDLY CONNECTED TO A BRACKET BASE |)))) |
| Examiner: | John J. Wilson |) |

AMENDMENT "A"

Mail Stop AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of October 15, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

12/09/2004 LWONDIM1 00000064 233178 10774197 02 FC:1201 244.00 DA 156.00 DP